

## Training Event Goes Up In Smoke, Just as Intended

By Sky Chappell  
*Of The New Era*

The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District (SHFAD) held a burn-to-learn event on Saturday, March 16, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 3204 Main St., located directly next to Cascade Timber Consulting (CTC).

The dilapidated structure was owned by CTC, who needed to get rid of it, and allowed it to be used by the fire department for training.

For the past four to five months, the SHFAD has used this location to hone in on various skills. They used this building to practice roof operations, search and rescue training, and drills such as vertical ventilation.

"We can do that stuff on props, but it's just better to get a piece of property that they've never seen before," Battalion Chief Eli Harris said.

Unlike the rest of the crew, there were four relatively new firefighters who had attended only one other burn-to-learn since they finished in the academy.



Photo by Sky Chappell

Firefighters working to contain a fire during a burn-to-learn event on Saturday.

Every Thursday, the SHFAD has a drill night, varying from EMS rescue to fire-related drills. They also have three to four on-shift training sessions a month. The burn-to-learn events, however, are more opportunistic.

Along with the immense

amount of prep and planning that must be done, the fire department doesn't always have a building which they can use. Although Harris mentioned the fact that he's had up to four in a year before, the last burn-to-learn was at the start of last summer, over nine months ago.

"The training went well," Harris said. "They got that fresh application of wildfire training in an existing structure that you just can't recreate any other way, and it's invaluable to these guys. It burnt pretty clean and went exactly the way we wanted it to."

## Ames Property, Allegations Still Under Review

By Sarah Brown  
*Of The New Era*

As the City of Sweet Home looks into allegations about Code Enforcement Officer Blake Dawson acting illegally and inappropriately toward residents during abatement, Calvin Ames approached City Manager Kelcey Young to provide an update on his efforts to regain control of his property.

Ames told Young on March 13 that he just filed for probate at the court, which Young said she was happy to hear.

"I've been working my ass off, I'm going to get'er done," Ames told her.

The original will had been found, he said, adding that he believes it fell through the cracks at the county courthouse some time ago. Ames told the city he will be working on getting a building permit in order to fix his house. He said he just needs to install two windows, hook up electricity, and fix the roof.

He asked Young if he would be refunded if his vid-



Photo by Sarah Brown

Calvin Ames asks to speak with city staff.

eos can prove officers "did all this" illegally. She responded that it is an entirely different question at hand they'd have to pursue, but so far there

has been no evidence that anything illegal has happened.

"Right now we're just trying to get you to connect

all the dots so that we can get you back in your house," she told Ames. "We want to

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Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**PAM  
HEWITT**



**ICEBOX COOKOFF  
UNDER NEW  
MANAGEMENT**  
PAGE 5



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SPORTS  
PREVIEW**  
PAGE 8-13



**FIREFIIGHTERS  
BATTLE WILDFIRE  
AND STRUCTURE FIRE**  
PAGE 16

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# OBITUARIES



**Janet Dee Gordon**  
October 12, 1935 - March 13, 2024

Janet Dee Gordon, 88, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, March 13, 2024. She was born in Foster to Leslie Alfred and Myrtle Arietta (Buchanan) Hufford.

Janet was raised in Foster. She moved to Lacombe when she married and raised her family there. In 2008, she returned to the family home-stead in Foster.

Her father owned a logging business and Janet helped in a variety of ways and may have been the first woman log truck driver in the area.

She loved her family. Janet loved animals, especially horses. She had cows and milked cows most of her life. Janet loved raising a huge garden and canned and preserved every kind of food. She will be sorely missed at the peeling table. She was a tough and amazing woman.

Janet is survived by her children: Mark Cheshier and Wanda Cheshier Hamar; grandchildren: Edwin Eby, Daniel Stotz, Samantha Stotz; 12 great-grandchildren: Christy, Joseph, Gabby, and Zoey Eby, Carsyn, Ava, Conner, and Caleb Stotz, Natalie and Lilly Perkins, Colton and Carlee Curtis, sisters: Jane Crocker-Strom, Shirley Crocker, Mary Baker. Preceded in death by daughter: Christy Cheshier Eby, son: Leslie Cheshier.

Graveside service where she will be laid to rest on "her hill" will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 19th, at Hufford Fam-

ily Cemetery on Old Hufford Road. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



**Karen Anne McNamara**  
July 24, 1951 - March 8, 2024

Karen Anne McNamara, 72, of Sweet Home passed peacefully on March 8, 2024 in her home. Born in Stillwater, OK to Malcolm and Doris (White) O'Neil, she grew up in Watertown, MA and lived for many years in Nashua, NH. She later went on to live in Seattle, WA, San Diego, CA, Brookings, Junction City and spent her final years in Sweet Home. She worked for Lockheed/BAE for many years in southern NH.

Karen was a dog lover who spent many years enjoying Dog Beach in Ocean Beach San Diego and went on to become a cat lady after moving to Oregon. She was fiercely independent, a wonderful mother, great friend, and her greatest joy was time spent with her grandson, Finn.

She is survived by her daughter Lisa Sheehan, her son-in-law Jerry Sheehan, and her beloved grandson Alexander Finn Sheehan. She is preceded in death by her brothers Michael O'Neil and Daniel O'Neil.

We are grateful to Dixie Clark and family for years of friendship and laughter, comfort and care. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com)



**Michael Alan Healy**  
November 4, 1954 - February 29, 2024

Michael Alan Healy, 69, of Sweet Home passed away Thursday, February 29, 2024. He was born in Lebanon on November 4, 1954 to Gene and Carla (Christensen) Healy.

Mike graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1972 and entered the US Navy soon after. While in the Navy he spent time aboard the U.S.S. Rogers DD-876, four and 1/2 months in SEAL training and received a National Defense service medal.

He married Sylvia Windscheffell in 1978; they raised two boys, Doug and Tyler together before divorcing in 1993.

Mike married Connie Hornecker on March 17, 2005 and lived in Wyoming for several years before returning to Sweet Home in 2012.

He spent most of his working years as a truck driver, driving long haul, log trucks and water trucks. He owned his own log truck for many years before retiring in 2020.

Mike was known for his quick wit and stellar sense of humor, but he also had immense ingenuity and could build, fix, or fabricate anything. He always had a project or invention of some kind that he was working on (two of which he held U.S. patents.) He built life-size stagecoaches, covered wagons and constructed many slab wood tables from logs that he cut in his portable sawmill. His latest project was building a pontoon/par-

ty boat from ground up.

Mike is survived by his wife, Connie Healy of Sweet Home; mother Carla Healy of Sweet Home; children: Doug Healy of Junction City, Tyler (Audrey) Healy of Albany, Matt (Liz) Schoonover of Beaverton, Tim Schoonover of Chicago, Andrew (Jennifer) Schoonover of Surprise, AZ and adopted daughter, Aurora Bechtel of Sweet Home; siblings: Pat (Melanie) Healy of La Crescent, MN, Pam (Dale) Miner of Sweet Home, Teri (Allen) Lowery of Sweet Home; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mike was preceded in death by his dad, Gene Healy and grandson Devon Healy.

Memorial service will be 1 pm Saturday, March 23rd, at River of Life Fellowship. Military honors and celebration of life potluck will follow at 2:00 pm at Sweet Home VFW. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**George Burton Green**  
May 29, 1934 - March 12, 2024

George Burton Green, 89, of Sweet Home passed away Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Memorial service will be 2 p.m. Saturday, April 6th, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Marjorie Lou Harer**  
October 12, 1929 - March 6, 2024

Marjorie Lou Harer, 94, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2024. Celebration of life will be 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6th, at Sweet Home Senior Center. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**William "Bill" Harshman**

August 15, 1932 - March 13, 2024

William "Bill" Harshman, 91, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Frank E. Speck**

April 27, 1937 - March 13, 2024

Frank E. Speck, 86, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday March 13, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Margie "Marty" Mason**  
February 17, 1934 - March 13, 2024

Margie "Marty" Mason, 90, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com)

## CIRCUIT COURT

**Warrants are out on the following individuals:** Kaleb Kimber Banta, Jacob Reginald Bliss, Christian Jacob Boatwright, Hope Marie Connors, Curtis Ray Daniel, Ashlee Dee Flanagan, Trevor Alden Groff, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Ariel Shanea Kaping, Andrew Donald LeGore, Charles James Marvel, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, Kendra Lynne Montoya, Larry Robert Morgan, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Jamie Marie Pesek, Daniel Austin Phillips, Julianne Nicole Phillips, Tammy Lavonn

Robinson, Paul Levi Shelton, Richard Gene Stephens, Harley Michelle Webb.

**Dustin Thomas Ferebee**, 41, was charged March 14 with first degree criminal mischief and unlawful use of a weapon.

**Anthony Michael Tallon**, 49, was sentenced March 7 to 20 months in custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections, 24 months of post-prison supervision, one year of license suspension and a \$700 fine following a no contest plea for third degree assault, and guilty pleas for failure to perform duties of a driver to injured persons, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer and second degree criminal mischief. Charges dismissed: count two of third degree assault, count two of failure to perform duties of driver to injured persons, count two of second degree criminal mischief, reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

**SWEETHOMENEWS.COM**  
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# FARMERS


## INSURANCE

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**541-990-0569 (mobile)**  
[khartsook@farmersagent.com](mailto:khartsook@farmersagent.com)

Karyn Hartsook,  
Agent



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TEMPERATURES

DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
March 11		50	44	0.38
March 12		53	42	0.49
March 13		54	39	0.08
March 14		60	33	0.01
March 15		69	35	0.00
March 16		74	38	0.00
March 17		69	37	0.00

FORECAST

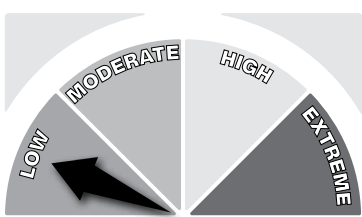
DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Cloudy	64	46
Fri	Rain	59	46
Sat	Rain	53	45
Sun	Showers	53	42
Mon	Showers	53	41
Tues	Showers	54	41
Wed	Showers	54	40

PRECIPITATION

Year to date: 11.70  
March 22, 2023: 10.85

LAKE LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 615.9  
Green Peter Res.: 978.5



TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS  
**LOW**

The fire danger information provided is current at the time of publication. For the latest and most accurate updates, please visit: [oregon.gov/odf](http://oregon.gov/odf)

Weather predictions are reported based on forecasts provided by the National Weather Service and others. Temperature and lake level information courtesy of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. For updated stream flow information, call (541) 367-5132.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report in The New Era is sourced from local law enforcement and fire agencies. Incident details, which may not always be available from agencies in time for publication in our weekly paper edition, could be updated on-line as information becomes available. Addresses provided generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. It is crucial to emphasize that our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court.

Mar. 12

1:01 a.m - Melissa Shreves, 37, was cited on a Lebanon warrant and for failure to use a seat belt.

4:20 p.m - Deputies took reports of eleven trees being illegally harvested on US Forest Service land. Exact value unknown, estimated in the thousands.

4:58 p.m - Macayla Marie

Jimenez, was found by Washington County Jail to have a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for theft by receiving.

9:23 p.m - Roxanna Beaver, 49, was cited in lieu of custody on a Linn County Justice Court warrant.

Mar. 13

12:50 a.m - Brittney Gibson, 34, was cited in lieu of custody for an active warrant.

1:33 a.m - Kaylee Barber, 19, was cited for speeding. 75/55.

2:09 a.m - Richard Jeremy Williams, 47, was arrested by Silverton PD on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for hit and run.

2:58 a.m - Christian Michael Rogers, 29, was arrested by Linn County Sheriff's Office on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for third degree theft.

5:51 a.m - Barbara Jeanne Coldiron, 33, was arrested on a Linn County Justice Court warrant for contempt of

court. Coldiron was also cited for driving while suspended.

Mar. 14

3:08 a.m - Jennifer Studer, 48, was arrested for a warrant.

3:40 a.m - Justin Surplus, 39, was arrested for driving while suspended.

12:57 p.m - Dustin Ferebee, 42, was arrested for reckless endangerment, first degree criminal mischief and unlawful use of a firearm.

4:06 p.m - Caller reports he was scammed by a loan company. Officer responded, report taken for first degree theft. Valued loss \$3000.

8:00 p.m - Dan'l Hale, 40, was cited for second degree criminal trespass.

9:25 p.m - David Chandler Forsyth, 29, was arrested on an Oregon State Correctional Institution warrant for second degree attempted assault. Lodged in Linn County Jail.

Mar. 15

12:51 a.m - Jordan Scott Carter, 34, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal

See Public Safety, Page 17

LOCAL EVENTS

After School Movies

The Sweet Home Public Library will be hosting movie nights this month at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays. The dates for the events follow with the movie; March 20 Peter Pan and Wendy, March 27 Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget.

Saint Patrick's Day Party

The Dam Bar will be hosting a Saint Patrick's Day Party with a live band on Saturday, March 16 at 3 p.m. Other events include DJ Drunken-Punkn March 23 at 7 p.m. and April 6 at 6 p.m Open Mic Night hosted by The Dam Karaoke Girls.

Northwest Horse and Fair Expo

The Northwest Horse Fair & Expo will be held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center March 22-25. The Northwest Horse Fair & Expo combines to the highest degree, first rate education, entertainment and shopping. There is truly something for everyone. Three days of fun the entire family can enjoy.

Annual Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show

The 74th Annual Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show will be held 10 a.m to 5 p.m March 30th and 31st located at the Sweet Home High School Activity Gym. Admission \$1 kids 12 and under FREE when accompanied by an adult; Theme: "A Pirate's treasure chest." rough rock, display specimens, minerals, fossils, demonstrations, door prizes. The event will include displays, demonstrations, vendors, raffles and food available for purchase.



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CALL TO SCHEDULE

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MON-SAT 9 AM - 4 PM

SHOP LOCAL- 4 TRIPS A DAY

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Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 19

	S	S	E	P	E	R	A	B	N	
	P	I	X	A	R	E	C	O	A	
F	R	A	N	C	R	A	D	A	S	H
A	B	S	C	I	S	E	C	O	N	S
N	E	M	E	S	I	S	O	P	T	I
	R	E	T	E		A	A	H	S	
G	E	N	E	S	E	S	T	H	I	M
A	K	A						A	A	R
P	E	G	A	S	U	S	B	O	U	R
	B	U	R	Y			A	R	N	E
I	M	P	A	N	E	L	S	A	D	N
S	C	A	N	D	A	L	E	N	R	A
M	I	S	D	O	A	B	M	A	M	E
	H	O	W	B	E	E	P	E	S	
	A	N	N	I	N	N	E	O	T	

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 19

9	8	7	6	2	5	4	3	1
5	1	3	4	9	7	8	2	6
6	4	2	1	8	3	5	9	7
8	9	4	5	1	2	6	7	3
2	7	5	8	3	6	9	1	4
1	3	6	9	7	4	2	5	8
3	2	9	7	4	8	1	6	5
4	5	1	3	6	9	7	8	2
7	6	8	2	5	1	3	4	9



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

For where two or three are gathered together  
in My name, I am there in the midst of them.  
-Matthew 18:20

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES  
GENESIS

1. In the beginning God created the earth.  
2. The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.  
3. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.  
4. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.  
5. And God saw that the light was good: and God separated the light from the darkness.  
6. And God called the light Day, and the darkness Night.  
7. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

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7. And the evening and the morning were the first day.



### FIR LAWN LUTHERAN

**SUNDAY  
9:30 AM**

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Open Doors

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10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Children's Church



### Sweet Home Evangelical Church

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### Elm Street Baptist Church

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11:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Prayer Meeting

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— Luke 24: 44-46 —

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Torah Study: 11:30am

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faithcommunityhealthnetwork@gmail.com

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## FROM OUR FILES



Wrestling their way to the top at the high school were 1974 award winners Pat Canfield (Outstanding Wrestler), Bill Anderson (Most Pins) and Dusty Christensen (Most Take Downs).

### March 21, 1974

A public hearing to determine whether a health hazard exists in the Foster-Midway area will be held by Oregon State Health Division. A survey discovered 101 faulty subsurface sewage disposal systems in the 225 properties sampled. The public hearing will allow residents to submit testimony, which will be included in the report and, later, the division will determine whether a health hazard exists. Should it be found there is a health problem, the territory will be annexed to the City of Sweet Home.

Burlington Northern Inc. awarded a bid for its 11.5-mile old Holley Branch Railway right-of-way to the City of Sweet Home. The city will pay \$46,120 for the property, which was about \$4,600 more than the bid from a group of ranchers whose properties abut the land. The city, however, agreed it would sell that portion of the right-of-way outside the city limits to the group with a mile of external easements retained by the city.

Court action to vacate a newly-hired Dr. Raymond D. Ranes from the East-Linn Medical Center was withdrawn. The hospital board filed a forcible entry and detainer suit against Ranes in mid-February to remove the physician after numerous misunderstandings, mainly regarding finances. Judicial action has been withheld until next week. Ranes currently works as an emergency room doctor in Las Vegas, but a committee is raising money to help establish him in an office in Sweet Home,

should he decide to stay.

The Sweet Home-East Linn Chamber of Commerce is seeking the interest level of residents for a commuter bus that would transport between Holley, Crawfordsville, Foster, Pleasant Valley, Liberty and Sweet Home. It was a question originally posed by rural resident Mrs. Scofield, who noted it would help conserve gas during the fuel shortage.

Senior Citizens Center Inc. was offered a section of upper Sankey Park by the City Council this week. The location is to be used as a site for the Seventh Day Adventist Church building, which the senior citizens expect to obtain and relocate to the park in August. In other business, the council instructed the city manager to look into the acquisition of property owned by State Division of Forestry between Holley Road and Westwood Lane. If acquired by the city, the property will be used for the proposed Strawberry Hills - Stonebrook Park.

Enforcement of dog control leash law ordinances have been a problem in the city. The city manager and police chief have hired Del Bryant, a 20-year veteran retired from the U.S. Army as a part-time dog control officer. He will go door-to-door to check if dog owners have properly licensed their animals. Owners of loose dogs will be cited, which starts as a \$20 fine and goes up in \$20 increments up to \$100 and a 50-day imprisonment.



# Growing Icebox Cookoff Under New Management

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Radiator Supply House may no longer be the official organizer of the annual Icebox Cookoff event, but the festivities of what's becoming one of the largest barbecue competitions on the West Coast will still be held at "home."

RSH announced last month that Sweet Events, an arm of the Sweet Home Economic Development Group, will take over management of the Cookoff. The fourth-annual event will be held July 5-7 at Radiator Supply House, 4001 Long St., with more than \$50,000 in payouts. In addition to fireworks, beer and live music, a variety of meats is expected to be on display as professional pitmasters display their barbecuing skills for thousands of expected visitors.

"This thing has grown with the help and support of the Sweet Home community and beyond," Garrett shared in a video on social media, adding that Sweet Events has better resources to handle the expanding affair.

Initiated in 2021 by J&C Barbecue in partnership with Radiator Supply House, the cookoff began mid-pandemic



with 41 teams from around the Northwest competing for cash prizes while a band livened the auditory senses. Victor Perez, from Salem, drew attention with a spit rotating a pig and an alligator. Ribs, pulled pork, steak, chicken, meat chili and corn salad were also among the samples to be tasted by crowds of invitation-only visitors at the first event.

J&C co-owner Christy Poteet said she got "really addicted" to barbecue competitions in 2017 and soon believed Sweet Home would be the

perfect place to host large competitions, which prompted her to call up old friends to help get it going. It was a joint effort between Poteet, RSH and Mike White (Best Damn BBQ Sauce).

"Ultimately, Mike (White) just wanted to get the competitors together," RSH co-owner Will Garrett said that year. "What he tells people is that the West Coast is not known for barbecue. The goal was to try to put competitors together on the West Coast to create what he calls a barbecue ecosystem. And (RSH Marketing

Director Wes Collins) and I said, 'Hey, we have the name Sweet Home.' Sweet Home just sounds like the South, like barbecue."

In 2022, RSH took control of the event and dubbed it the inaugural Icebox Cookoff barbecue competition because this time it was opened to the public. There were 35 professional pitmaster teams serving up their best work for a couple thousand visitors over the course of three days in an effort to win \$35,000 in payouts.

It was said competitors

came from neighboring states and as far away as Mississippi and Canada. Perez returned, as well, serving up duck and loins for tacos from a live fire, while others cooked mountain lion, hogs, rattlesnakes and alligators.

The Cookoff is an opportunity for pitmasters to qualify for larger, championship-style competitions across the states. Garrett said in 2022 that they were dreaming big for the future of the Icebox Cookoff.

"The goal," he said, "is that this would be something like the Jamboree for Sweet Home."

The event returned in 2023 with 38 pro barbecue teams competing in a three-day event with an estimated 6,000 attendees. An entire steer was on display this time around as it was cooked over an open fire. Hogs, Barbados rams, lambs, alligators and mountain lions also returned for open-fire fare, overseen by some 12 to 15 cooks from all over the country. At this point, Garrett – who himself competes in barbecue competitions across the nation – was already expressing the possibility that he might hand the competition off to another organization.

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**Men connecting through grief**

**Thursday, March 21 | 4 to 6 p.m. and Thursday, April 4 | 4 to 6 p.m.**  
The free virtual Man to Man Cancer Support Group provides a space for men to discuss the physical and emotional aspects of dealing with cancer. For more information or to register, contact the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center at [CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org](mailto:CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org) or 541-812-5888.

**Empowering cancer patients through resources**

**Wednesday, March 27 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday, April 9 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with cancer, the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center offers information and the support you deserve. Connect with our team while we are at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. Resources include wigs and head coverings (by appointment), support groups, financial assistance, nutrition services, social work, transportation assistance and more. For more information, contact the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center at [CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org](mailto:CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org) or 541-768-2171.

**Make becoming a sibling fun**

**Monday, April 8 | 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
Enjoy a video and activities that will help explain to siblings-to-be what their new baby will look like, how to hold and talk to baby, what baby eats, how to be a helper, new feelings and how to make becoming a sibling fun. The target audience for this free class is families with children ages 3 to 7 who are expecting a new baby. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Amy Bliege at 541-812-4301 or Pollywog at 541-917-4884 or [pollywogfamily.org](http://pollywogfamily.org).

Visit [samhealth.org/Classes](http://samhealth.org/Classes) for a complete list of classes and support groups in your community.



**Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital**  
[samhealth.org](http://samhealth.org)

**Living well with chronic conditions**

**Tuesdays starting April 2 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
This six-week workshop is for caregivers or people living with ongoing physical and mental health conditions like heart disease, anxiety, diabetes and arthritis. The skills learned will help you take charge of your health by building skills in communication, problem solving and action planning. This workshop meets weekly in Albany. To learn more, or register about this virtual workshop, email [SHSHealthEd@samhealth.org](mailto:SHSHealthEd@samhealth.org) or call 541-768-6811.

**Learn resilience and self-care for caregivers**


**Fridays starting April 12 | 2 to 4 p.m.**  
As a caregiver for a loved one who is at the end of life, it's essential to also take care of yourself. Samaritan Evergreen Hospice has partnered with Insight Journeys to offer a safe and empowering mind-body medicine skills group where you can learn skills to help manage the responsibilities you carry. This free six-week training is designed to address specific challenges of the caregiving role. Anyone supporting a vulnerable family member or friend is encouraged to participate. Registration is required and class size is limited. Contact certified CMBM facilitator, Anna Looney at [annalooney22@gmail.com](mailto:annalooney22@gmail.com) or call 609-468-2270.

**Support hospice patients and families**

**Tuesday, April 30 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Albany General Hospital Foundation invites you to the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice benefit luncheon featuring keynote speaker Barb Hansen, CEO, of Oregon Hospice and Palliative Care Association. This special fundraising event celebrates the importance of compassionate end-of-life care in our community. All proceeds will support care and needed services for hospice patients and families. Tickets are \$35 per person. RSVP by Monday, April 15, by visiting [samhealth.org/HospiceLuncheon](http://samhealth.org/HospiceLuncheon) or call 541-812-4819.

**Samaritan health seminars available**

**Tuesdays starting April 2 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
The medical professionals of Samaritan Health Services host online health seminars on a variety of topics throughout the year. If you are unable to attend a live session, you are welcome to view a recording of past programs online.



**Q: How do I get rid of my bad breath?**

**A:** Bad breath can ruin many a good moment, whether a romantic moment, a business moment, or even just yourself. We've all been there. Unfortunately, bouts of bad breath are inevitable. Bad odors can be caused directly from foods we eat (i.e. garlic, alcohol, coffee, and others...), or from gases that oral bacteria produce.

Fortunately, for the most part, bad breath is manageable. Choose breath-friendly foods and beverages. Water washes away food debris and helps keep bacteria in check. Healthy food choices like carrots, celery, and apples actually help scrub bacteria from the teeth. Brush your teeth at least morning and night. We also highly recommend cleaning your tongue either by brushing it or using a tongue scraper.


If your bad breath is severe, even after following the steps above, it could be a sign of something more serious such as gum disease, diabetes, sinus problems, gastric reflux, or liver or kidney disease. Come see us so we can help address the issue.

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**Q: What is the difference between Vision and Medical Insurance?**

**A:** I get this question frequently and it is troubling to me that so many do not understand the difference. Many Insurance companies tell their clients if you do not have vision insurance you can not have a routine eye examination. This is true. However, many insurance companies will not tell you if you have a medical condition you can have your eyes evaluated for that condition. The following is a short description of Vision and Medical Insurance differences.

If you have Vision Insurance, depending on your plan, you can have a complete vision examination that includes the determination of your glasses prescription and a front to back analysis of the health of your eyes. Some plans will allow a precise amount of benefit towards your frame and lenses, some do not offer any benefits towards glasses at all. It depends on the company, and the benefit plan. No two plans are the same. If you have Medical Insurance, depending on your plan, you can have any medical type condition evaluated and your insurance plan will pay towards your office visit. Your medical insurance will not cover routine vision examinations or glasses, frame and lenses. For a more detailed description of the differences between Routine Vision and Medical Insurance, visit our Facebook Site, at (Dr Stoner @ Advanced Family Eyecare) or request an email at ([advancedfamilyeyecare@com-cast.net](mailto:advancedfamilyeyecare@com-cast.net)).

To see if Dr Stoner accepts your insurance plan visit the office FaceBook Site at Dr Stoner @ Advanced Family Eyecare.

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# Children’s Illustrator, Author Visits Holley School

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

A librarian at Holley Elementary had a life-changing experience as a child that she wanted to pass on to other children, so she set her sights on finding the right person to do that.

The librarian, Cera Hartness, invited illustrator and author Zoey Abbott to the school to read one of her books and share a drawing demonstration.

“I got to present to two groups of students and had so much fun sharing process and talking about themes of my books,” Abbott said. “We especially had fun working story illustration prompts, an exercise for generating and working on personal projects.”

Hartness recalled when she was about 6 years old, author, illustrator and singer Mary Rice Hopkins visited Sweet Home to share her talents with the city’s youngest residents.

“I remember sitting in Sankey Park listening to her read her book aloud while the park was filled with children,” Hartness said. “I still to this day have her signed book in my possession. That day sparked a love of reading, art and music.”

Hartness, herself, attended Holley Elementary growing up, so when she came on board as librarian, she took her “sheer love of literature and art” and used it as fuel to hunt for the right author to multiply the good memories.

“I knew immediately that I wanted to give the students, including my own son and daughter (sixth grade), and my



Photo provided by Holley Elementary

Abbott uses an unusual fruit to illustrate how one should not judge a book by its cover.

niece (fifth grade) and nephew (kindergarten) the same experience,” she said.

Abbott is a children’s book author and illustrator out of Portland, where she shares a home with family and their dog, Carrots. She has published four of her own books and illustrated four others. She works in various mediums including guache, ink, pencil and risograph printing.

Her books include, “Banana,” about the challenges of change, “Clementine and the Lion,” about boundaries and friendship, “Pig and Horse and the Something Scary,” about friendship and emotions, and “I Do Not Like Yolanda,” overcoming fear of a particular postal worker. She has three more books forthcoming: “A Kite Story,” “This Year, A Witch,” and “The Portraitist.”

On her website, Abbott shares that “making stories is an indulgence and a way to

sort out things that make no sense.”

During her visit to Holley, she not only read one of her books to the students, but also explained the writing and illustration process, how long it takes to publish books, what her inspiration was, and how to create your own story by using the three Ps: person, place, problem.

“This gave the students the foundation of what it takes to do what she does,” Hartness said.

Abbott also showed a rambutan fruit to illustrate that one cannot judge a book by its cover or a fruit by its peel, Hartness added.

“To say the kids were excited is an understatement,” she said. “They adored her and even handed her little gifts of drawing bananas as thank you cards. They still talk about her a week later and we are sending her a Holley SWAG box

of drawings, stories, thank you cards, and a Holley Hawk T-shirt next week.”

Abbott told The New Era she was especially warmed by the staff and students who were so welcoming, and she

had a “lovely” visit. “The children are already such astute readers, writers and creators and I hope they’ll be inspired to continue and deepen their work,” Abbott said.

## The New Era

In the March 13, 2024 edition of The New Era we incorrectly labeled a photo of the junior varisty girls basketball team as the varsity girls basketball team.

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# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Photo by Kristine Banker

Names listed alphabetically: Boys: Blake Arthur, Boden Sayer, Caden Foley, Cannon Klumph, Chase Cameron, Christian Justham, Colin Nicholson, Colton Bennett, Conner Pace, Conner Stevens, Deacon Bachand, Devin Jackson, Dillan Davis, Domynic Daniel, Dylan Sharp, Eli Olson, Elisha Scofield, Gavin Tyler, Gunnar Summers, Henry Jones, Hunter Clark, Izack Slayter, Jack Simmons, Jackson Barringer, Jarron Slayter, Jayden Mancilla, Jim Nunn (Morgan), Joab Zeek, Jon Hart, Kaden Miller, Kaeson Walker, Kasey Kast, Kason Koenig Walters, Keagan Vogel, Keegan Jefferson, Kolton Kanui-Pollock, Kyle Porter, Kyle Sieminski, Laird Pettner, Landon Murry, Liam Martin, Logan Estep, Lukas Thompson, Marley Ortiz, Memphis Gay, Nicholaus MacKenzie, Nick Larson, Noah Valdez, Payton Messmer, Rickey Erickson, Roman Shreves, Ryker Burr, Taren Greunke, Thomas Culbertson, Girls: Abygail Foss, Aivaih Duran, Ally Downs, Alyssa Peterson, Amara Gonzales, Amelia Berg, Amelia Sullens, Beatrice Reeve, Brooke Elder, Delainie Pratt, Emily Rasmussen, Emmaline Durrett, Emmersin Coelho, Emry Vannice, Gracie Vaughan, Hannah Nicholson, Haylee Fortune, Jayla Moore, Jenaya McElhinny, Jess Martineau, Kaylee Looney, Kaylynn Mamac, Khloe Wood, Koharu Yasuda, Loralai Mark, Lydia Wright, Madison Looney, Madison Olheiser, Mahala Gourley Webster, Mailey Brewer, McKenzie Miller, McKenzie Olheiser, Michelle Slayton, Miu Simmons, Natiyah Koenig Walters, Peyton Markell, Rylee Markell, Samantha Pineda Villa, Selah Wright, Sophia Stock, Stephanie Saultz, Talitha Watkins, Timber Nobles.

## Young Talent Adds to Growing Momentum

**By Scott Swanson**  
*For The New Era*

Sweet Home's track and field program is continuing to grow, in multiple ways, Head Coach Nathan Whitfield said last week.

The program has been gaining momentum since the COVID pandemic shutdown, which deep-sixed the season for a promising team in 2020. But recently, the Huskies have seen an influx of young – and enthusiastic – athletes, surprising everyone last year with a bigger-than-expected performance from a very young team that had only seven seniors – all of them boys.

And most of them are back this season to pick up where they left off.

This year's team boasts 47 boys and 38 girls, for a total of

95 athletes, about triple what Whitfield said he had in his first year at the helm, 2021, and a quarter more than last year.

"We finally have a solid number of athletes," Whitfield said last week, in which the Huskies held their intersquad meet on Thursday, March 14, which gave his team a chance to tune up and helped newcomers to the sport get a feel for competition after three weeks of practice. The event, results of which are listed below, was an abbreviated meet with shorter distances in some events and no relays or 3,000-meter run.

Whitfield noted that Sweet Home has lost some "studs" from last year's boys team that finished fourth in the six-team Oregon West Conference, and the girls, who finished fifth with no senior girls on the team.

Gone to graduation is Mason Lopez, a three-time state qualifier in the javelin, and last year's top point-scorer for Sweet Home. Also gone are Dakota Seiber, a district finalist in both the 100 and 200 last year, and Taevon James, who was third in the 200. Both were part of the short relay team that qualified for state.

Returning from the boys short sprint quartet are juniors Chase Cameron, who was sixth at districts in 100 and eighth in 200 as a sophomore in his first year of track, and Conner Stevens, who teamed with Seiber and James last year to qualify for state in the 4x100 with a second-place finish at districts.

Also back is senior Kyle Sieminski, who just missed a trip to state with a third-place finish in districts as a junior in the 400

(53:36).

Sieminski will lead a surging middle distance crew, Whitfield said.

"He's kind of a leader in clubhouse," the coach said, noting that sophomore Dillan Davis and freshman the state level in the 400 last year as an eighth-grader, are expected to add some muscle to that part of the team.

Most of the points producers for the girls are back. On the girls side, Kaylynn Mamac, now a junior, was the team's top short sprinter and a district finalist last year in the 200, (29:03), along with Lydia Wright, last year's girls MVP, who is now a senior, in the 400 (1:06.53), along with Amelia Sullens (1:09.68), now a junior. Wright also made the finals in the 800 (2:42.09).

Bursting onto the scene for the girls in the intersquad meet was freshman Brooke Elder, who won the 100 (13.6), 200 (29.72), and 300 (48.76), trailed closely by several other talented freshmen, including Hannah Nicholson, who was third in all three sprints, and Amara Gonzalez, second in the 200.

Wright and Sullens are expected, along with junior Natiyah Koenig-Walters, to add some punch for the girls in the middle distances.

On the boys side, junior Kasey Kast is back after qualifying for state last year in the 800 (2:04.68). Kast ran 1:35.57 in the 600 event.

"Our middle distance looks really strong," Whitfield said, adding that he expects a beefed-up 4x400 relay crew this year.



“What’s nice with that group is we essentially have all the guys returning from last year, faster and stronger. And we added a couple more on that team, which will be solid.”

In the distances, Keagan Vogel was seventh in the district as a freshman last year in the 3000, running 10:49. He is joined on the boys side by freshmen Kason Koenig-Walters and Hunter Clark, who went 1-2 in the 1200 meters in the intersquad meet, running 3:55.57 and 4:40.93 respectively.

On the girls side, Sweet Home is hoping for big things from sophomore McKenzie Miller, who was fourth last year in 5:13.05 and also in the 3000 (11:38.99) as a freshman in her first year of distance running, and then missed a trip to state by just one place last fall in cross-country. Miller ran 4:18.36 to win the intersquad 1200.

In the throws, the Huskies are missing Nathan Aker, who was district champion in the shot put last year as a junior (44-9¾) and was a rising star in the throws for the boys, but is no longer at the high school.

Also gone, to graduation, is Tomas Stafford, who was a big contributor in the discus.

But freshman Gavin Tyler showed some big potential in the shot in last week’s intersquad meet, winning the shot (40-0) and placing second in the javelin (120-5), behind junior Rickey Erickson, whose winning throw of 130-6 was just 2 feet short of the PR he posted last year at districts.

On the girls side, junior Jess Martineau returns after sixth-place finishes in the shot (28-8) and discus (72-7) at last year’s districts, along with Selah Wright, who placed eighth at district in the shot as a freshman. In the javelin, junior Peyton Markell threw 88-10 to win the intersquad meet, well off the personal best of 99-4½ she threw last summer at the Nike Outdoor Nationals. In second was her sister, senior Rylee Markell, who posted a season-opening personal best of 81-2 – a PR of 7½ feet.

Conner Pace, a junior, won the discus with a throw of 117-10, 5 feet over his best from last year.

Whitfield said he is encouraged not only by the numbers but by the dedication he’s seeing.

“Right now, what’s cool is how hungry the kids are to compete,” he said. “It’s not just any one group. This whole team is hungry and wanting to work right now, which is a lot of fun.”

He said this year’s Huskies are picking up where last year’s team left off.

“I think the kids got a little hungry, somehow. It might have been competing well at last year’s districts or just

something this year – whatever, they’re really wanting it, working hard, the underclassmen just following the upperclassmen’s lead and going for it. They’re staying right there with them. Luckily, we have some really good upperclassmen kind of leading.”

He noted that freshmen were among those who made some big statements in the intersquad meet.

“It went very well. We got to see some good things, especially from the newbies. It was real exciting to see how much potential we have.

“The freshmen did a great job stepping up, and the upperclassmen hitting right in stride.”

He noted that Wright and Sullens both performed well, Sullens tying with sophomore Delanie Pratt at 6-6 in the pole vault.

Also doing well was senior Colin Nicholson, who cleared 5-11 in the high jump. Nicholson is back after having his junior year abruptly shortened by an injury after he went 6-1 last year in the high jump and 37-8½ in the triple.

“He would have had a new PR if he hadn’t clipped the bar with his foot,” Whitfield said.

“It’s been a long time since we had a halfway decent high jumper – Ashton Stutzman and Tim McDowell, and Zoe James.”

Sweet Home has not been particularly strong in the jumps since COVID, with the exception of Tristan Calkins, who won a state title in 2021, but the presence of two new assistant coaches, Spencer Hart, who will handle the pole vault and long jump, and Angela Stevens, who will coach the high jump, could change that. And Calkins is serving as an assistant as well this year, focusing on the horizontal jumps.

Hart, who graduated from Philomath High School in 2015, was a top track performer for the Warriors, as a jumper, clearing 13-6 in the pole vault and 5-4 in the high jump.

Rounding out the coaching staff are veterans Randy Whitfield, Andy Waldrop, Ramiro Santana and Dave Martin, along with, Josie Macklin and Debbie Walvatne.

“I love our coaching staff, with the experience we have,” Nathan Whitfield said. “Martin has 40-plus year, and Randy and Ramiro with 20-plus years. I’m the third-youngest, but I think this is year 15 for me coaching.”

On the boys side, rounding out the boys roster are: seniors Blake Arthur, Taren Greunke, Kaden Miller and Eli Olson; juniors Colton Bennett, Jon Hart, Christian Justham, Jayden Mancilla, Marley Ortiz, Conner Pace, Laird Pettner, Boden Sayer, Dylan Sharp, Jarron Slayter, and Conner Stevens; sophomores Dillan Davis, Memphis

Gay, Kyle Porter, Elisha Scofield, Roman Shreves and Lukas Thompson; and freshmen Hunter Clark, Thomas Culbertson, Domyenic Daniel, Logan Estep, Caden Foley, Devin Jackson, Kegan Jefferson, Henry Jones, Kolton Kunui-Pollock, Kason Koenig-Walters, Nick Larson, Nicholas MacKenzie, Payton Messmer, Landon Murry, Izack Slayter, Gunnar Summers, Noah Valdez and Kaeson Walker.

The girls roster includes: seniors Emily Rasmussen, Stephanie Saultz and Koharu Yasuda; juniors Abygail Foss, Kaylee Looney, Jenaya McElhinny, Timber Nobles, Samantha Pineda Villa, Beatrice Reeve and Sophia Stock; sophomores Amelia Berg, Ally Downs, Mahala Gourley Webster, and Madison Olheiser; and freshmen Mailey Brewer, Emmersin Coelho, Aivaih Duran, Haylee Fortune, Madison Looney, McKenzie Olheiser, Miu Simmons, Michelle Slayton, Emry Vannice, Talitha Watkins and Khloe Wood.

“It’s a lot of kids to manage, but it’s a good number,” Whitfield said. “With the numbers we have, it’s going to be interesting. We don’t have the studs we had last year who we know would most likely qualify for state, but we have a lot of young kids who are coming on strong.

“We do have talent. It’s just a matter of making sure they’re in the right places.”

The Huskies open their regular season this Thursday at the Stayton Relays on March 21.

The Oregon West Conference looks as tough as ever. Philomath’s girls won the state title last year, with the boys also near the top of the team scoring at Hayward Field, and Whitfield said he expects the Warriors to be the team to beat this year, with a lot of returnees.

“They didn’t lose much,” he said. “Cascade will be solid too. They always are. Beyond that, it’s hard to tell.”

In addition to this year’s Meet of Champions, which Sweet Home will host on April 20, the Huskies will host Newport on April 4, Woodburn on April 11 and Stayton on April 30.

Districts will be at Newport on May 10-11.

After a long hiatus, Sweet Home will compete April 6 at the Sandy Invitational and will return on Friday, April 26, to the Rob Allen Twilight Invitational, hosted by Lebanon.

“We’re switching it up a little bit,” Whitfield said of the schedule. “Sandy, we haven’t been there for a long time, and the Rob Allen, we’re back after a bunch of years.

“I think we have grown up and are ready to handle (meets with bigger schools).

“It should be fun. We’ll see what the kids can do now that we have the practice meet out of the way.”

# INTERSQUAD MEET

## BOYS RESULTS

\* Personal Best Time/Mark  
100 – (1) Chase Cameron (11th grade) 11.69; (2) Kyle Sieminski (12th grade) 12.06\*; (3) Landon Murry (9th grade) 12.40; (4) Ryker Burr (9) 12.49; (5) Dillan Davis (10) 12.51\*; (6) Conner Stevens (11) 12.56; (7) Noah Valdez (9) 13.06; (8) Kaden Miller (12) 13.10; (9) Christian Justham (11) 13.19; (10) Nick Larson (9) 13.22; (11) Roman Shreves (10) 13.68; (12) Logan Estep (9) 13.88; (13) Domyenic Daniel (9) 14.62; (14) Izack Slayter (9) 16.99.  
200 – (1) Kyle Sieminski (12) 24.98\*; (2) Dillan Davis (10) 25.42\*; (3) Ryker Burr (9) 25.48; (4) Conner Stevens (11) 25.97; (5) Landon Murry (9) 26.37; (6) Kaeson Walker (9) 26.95; (7) Noah Valdez (9) 27.45; (8) Christian Justham (11) 27.63; (9) Elisha Scofield (10) 28.22; (10) Kegan Jefferson (9) 28.71; (11) Domyenic Daniel (11) 30.78.  
300 – (1) Kyle Sieminski (12) 39.52; (2) Dillan Davis (10) 40.30; (3) Ryker Burr (9) 41.19; (4) Christian Justham (11) 42.43; (5) Landon Murry (9) 42.79; (6) Kegan Jefferson (9) 42.20; (7) Kyle Porter (10) 50.47.  
600 – (1) Kasey Kast (11) 1:35.57; (2) Kyle Porter (10) 2:09.93.  
1200 – (1) Kason Koenig-Walters (9) 3:55.57; (2) Hunter Clark (9) 4:04.93; (3) Keegan Vogel (10) 4:15.83; (4) Thomas Culbertson (9) 4:36.48; (5) Izack Slayter (9) 4:42.54.  
60 Hurdles – (1) Nick Larson (9) 10.75.  
200 Hurdles – (1) Nick Larson (9) 32.35; (2) Izack Slayter (9) 40.45.  
Shot Put – (1) Gavin Tyler (9) 40-0; (2) Dylan Sharp (11) 36-9; (3) Colton Bennett (11) 36-1\*; (4) Conner Pace (11) 32-9½\*; (5) Jon Hart (11) 32-1; (6) Jayden Mancilla (11) 29-9; (7) Taren Greunke (12) 27-3½; (8) Caden Foley (9) 25-10½; (9) Eli Olson (12) 25-5½; (10) Payton Messmer (9) 24-11; (11) Kolton Kanui-Pollock (9) 24-4½; (12) Jarron Slayter (11) 24-1; (13) Marley Ortiz (11) 18-2; (14) Henry Jones (9) 17-3½.  
Discus – (1) Conner Pace (11) 117-10\*; (2) Dylan Sharp (11) 92-11; (3) Jon Hart (11) 90-3; (4) Colton Bennett (11) 85-5\*; (5) Gavin Tyler 80-10; (6) Jayden Mancilla (11) 78-5½; (7) Kason Koenig-Walters (9) 73-10; (8) Eli Olson (12) 66-8\*; (9) Caden Foley (9) 65-10½; (10) Memphis Gay 10) 58-11; (11) Payton Messmer (9) 55-5; (12) Taren Greunke (12) 52-3; (13) Jarron Slayter (11) 45-3½; (14) Henry Jones (9) 44-5.  
Javelin – (1) Rickey Erickson (11) 130-6; (2) Gavin Tyler (9) 120-5; (3) Laird Pettner (11) 117-8; (4) Boden Sayer (11) 92-8\*; (5) Kolton Kanui-Pollock (9) 92-4; (6) Blake Arthur (12) 90-10; (7) Kaeson Walker (9) 88-9; (8) Payton Messmer (9) 76-4; (9) Jarron Slayter (11) 75-10; (10) Gunnar Summers (9) 72-4; (11) Memphis Gay (10) 71-4; (12) Lukas Thompson (10) 66-8; (13) Caden Foley (9) 56-9.  
High Jump – (1) Colin Nicholson (12) 5-11; (2) Kaeson Walker (9) 4-4; (3) Elisha Scofield (10) 5-5; (4) Noah Valdez (9) 4-0.  
Pole Vault – (1) Colin Nicholson (12) 5-11; (2) Kaeson Walker (9) 4-4; (3) Elisha Scofield (10) 4-4; (4) Noah Valdez (9) 4-0.  
Long Jump – (1) Landon Murry

(9) 15-7; (2) Kaeson Walker (9) 15-5; (3) Noah Valdez (9) 15-5; (4) Nick Larson (9) 14-6; (5) Elisha Scofield (10) 14-1; (6) Kegan Jefferson (9) 13-11; (7) Logan Estep (9) 13-1; (8) Domyenic Daniel (9) 12-9.  
Triple Jump – (1) Colin Nicholson (12) 35-9.

## GIRLS RESULTS

100 – (1) Brooke Elder (9) 13-6; (2) Kaylynn Mamac (11) 14-0; (3) Hannah Nicholson (9) 14.59; (4) Stephanie Saultz (12) 14.63; (5) Delainie Pratt (10) 14.84\*; (6) Amara Gonzales (6) 14.7; (7) Emry Vannice (9) 15.25; (8) Khloe Wood (9) 14.30; (9) Abygail Foss (11) 15.2; (10) Jenaya McElhinny (11) 15.54; (11) Sophia Stock (11) 16.08; (12) Samantha Pineda Villa (11) 16.20\*; (13) Aivaih Duran (9) 16.1; (14) Talitha Watkins (9) 16.61; (15) Amelia Berg (10) 16.5; (16) McKenzie Olheiser (9) 16.82; (17) Madison Olheiser (10) 17.73; (18) Ally Downs (10) 17.6.  
200 – (1) Brooke Elder (9) 29.72; (2) Amara Gonzales (9) 31.72; (3) Hannah Nicholson (9) 31.87; (4) Stephanie Saultz (12) 32.05; (5) Jenaya McElhinny (11) 32.85; (6) Aivaih Duran (9) 34.13; (7) Emry Vannice (9) 34.74; (8) Amelia Berg (10) 35.86; (9) Samantha Pineda Villa (11) 36.25; (10) McKenzie Olheiser (9) 36.46; (11) Talitha Watkins (9) 36.60; (12) Madison Olheiser (10) 40.08.  
300 – (1) Brooke Elder (9) 48.76; (2) Lydia Wright (12) 49.48; (3) Hannah Nicholson (9) 50.45; (4) Khloe Wood (52.68; (5) Sophia Stock (11) 53.46; (6) McKenzie Olheiser (9) 56.93.  
600 – (1) Amelia Sullens (11) 1:58.34; (2) Lydia Wright (12) 2:01.65; (3) Natiyah Koenig-Walters (11) 2:07.22.  
1200 – (1) McKenzie Miller (10) 4:18.36; (2) Rylee Markell (12) 4:44.85; (3) Miu Simmons (9) 5:00.53.  
55 Hurdles – (1) Kaylynn Mamac (11) 11.81; (2) Talitha Watkins (9) 13.97.  
200 Hurdles – (1) Delainie Pratt (10) 36.67; (2) Beatrice Reeve (11) 40.02; (3) Miu Simmons (9) 45.88; (4) Koharu Yasuda (12) 46.82.  
Shot Put – (1) Jess Martineau (11) 28-7; (2) Selah Wright (10) 26-6; (3) Madison Looney (9) 21-0¾; (4) Mailey Brewer (9) 20-1¼; (5) Kaylee Looney (11) 17-4; (6) Mahala Gourley Webster (10) 16-7; (7) Timber Nobles (11) 15-0½\*.  
Discus – (1) Selah Wright (10) 69-8; (2) Jess Martineau 65-2½; (3) Mailey Brewer (9) 64-5; (4) Emmersin Coelho (9) 54-9½; (5) Kaylee Looney (11) 46-6; (6) Madison Looney (9) 46-3½; (7) Haylee Fortune (9) 44-2; (10) Timber Nobles (11) 30-6\*.  
Javelin – (1) Peyton Markell (11) 88-10; (2) Rylee Markell (12) 81-2\*; (3) Abygail Foss (11) 69-10; (4) Emily Rasmussen (12) 66-8; (5) Emmersin Coelho (9) 54-8; (6) Haylee Fortune (9) 43-10.  
High Jump – (1) Khloe Wood (9) 3-8.  
Pole Vault – (1-tie) Delainie Pratt (10), Ameilia Sullens (11) 6-6; (3) Natiyah Koenig-Walters (11) 6-6.  
Long Jump – (1) Beatrice Reeve (11) 14-4; (2) Amara Gonzales (9) 13-3; (3) Khloe Wood (9) 13-1; (4) Brooke Elder (9) 13-1; (5) Sophia Stock (12) 12-2; (6) Emry Vannice (9) 11-7.



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Photo by Kristine Banker

Meet the Sweet Home Huskies Girls Varsity Softball Team. In alphabetical order: Emily Burks, Jocelyn Fairchild, Adisen Graber, Katriona Harris, Anabelle Morris, Aubrey Newberry, Hannah Sieminski, Miley Smith, Natalie Smith, Addy Vannice, Trinity Victor, Riley Watkins.



Photo by Kristine Banker

Meet the Sweet Home Huskies Jr. Varsity Softball Team. In alphabetical order; Aaliyah Brown, Emily Burks, Brooke Byler, Ellie Chaffino, Natalie Conn, Elizabeth Dean, Kalissa Ellis, Kaitlyn Kennedy, Audry McCutcheon, Brynn McCutcheon, Preslie Roebuck, Madison Sailors, Isabella Wagner.

# Girls Softball Gear Up for Redemption

By Kristy Tallman  
Of The New Era

With the anticipation of a new season on the horizon, the Husky girls softball team readies itself for a shot at redemption following a challenging 2022-2023 campaign. Under the steady guidance of Coach Emily Marchbanks, the team is committed this season to overcoming past setbacks and emerging stronger than ever.

Reflecting on the trials of the previous season, Marchbanks emphasized the importance of mental toughness.

"Our goal is always to reach the postseason," she said. "We're focused on pushing our team to be mentally resilient."

Acknowledging the youthfulness of their roster, which

includes two seniors, two juniors, seven sophomores and one freshman, Marchbanks recognized the necessity for consistent performance.

"We have a very young team," she said. "We'll have to work harder to maintain consistency and mental toughness throughout the season."

Despite their relative inexperience, the team finds strength in the leadership of their seniors.

"Our seniors are really stepping up in their leadership roles," Marchbanks said.

Last season finishing 122 in the state, the Huskies struggled with an overall record of 7-14 and a league record of 2-8. Their home record stood at 2-6-0, while they performed slightly better on the road with a record of 5-8-0. Despite the setbacks,

Marchbanks sees potential for growth.

"We'll have to work harder to stay consistent," she affirmed. "But our goal remains the same: to push for the postseason."

As they bid farewell to four seniors from the previous season, Marchbanks expressed confidence in the abilities of the incoming players.

"We lost four seniors last year, and we miss them all," she said. "But our new players are doing a great job filling their shoes."

With renewed determination and a clear focus on their objectives, the Huskies could be primed to reclaim their position among Oregon's softball elite as they prepare to take the field once more.





Photo by Kristine Banker  
L-R Tori Victor, Hanah James, Abby Hogan, Coach Haley May, Rylie Hollingsworth, Averi Temple.



Photo by Kristine Banker  
Front L-R: Zane Garrett, Chet Garrett, Trent Harvey, Evan Ashcraft. Middle L-R: Bradyn McClure, Devin Schuster, Max Klumph, Easton Perry, Levi Roth, Gage Pettner. Back L-R Gavin Gardner, Jacob Silvers, Kellen Hartsook, Daniel McCubbins.

# Sweet Home Golf Teams Expand, Eye Successful Season Ahead

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

Following a year of team building the Sweet Home Golf teams have improved their numbers. Subsequently, last year, the teams only consisted of a total of two girls and five boys. The teams have grown to a heightened number of 15 boys and five girls for this season.

The boys team includes six seniors, three juniors and six freshmen, showing promise for positive outcomes in later seasons.

The girls team, although not as large as the boys, has still grown to two seniors, two sophomores and one freshman.

Last season, the boys team finished fourth in the 4A Special District 2. Head coach Ron Moore said, “[It] was respectable, but I think we could’ve finished better. There’s a lot of room for improvement, but all in all, they

improved last year and got themselves better as a team.”

“Last year girls, we only had two girls playing. They both played in districts and played well for themselves, both having personal bests,” Moore said. “But not having a team, we couldn’t qualify for districts, and neither one of them qualified as individuals.”

Returning players are always good for a rebuilding team. Moore believes returning senior Evan Ashcraft has a good chance at both going to state as an individual and potentially helping the team to qualify for state. Returning senior Chet Garret was also highlighted, with Moore stating, “I think both of them have the potential of playing well and helping the team. Hopefully their leadership can get these younger kids up to where we need them to be.”

Moore is hoping that his boys team will be able to make it to state, which means they’d have to finish in the top three in the Special District 2 District Tournament that will be held May 6 to 7 at the Emerald Valley Golf Course.

March 14, the teams were seen at the Marshfield invitational event held at Bandon Trails Golf Course. Moore commented saying, “Beautiful weather. We had a good weekend of team building and we played a lot of golf.” Although they didn’t fare well during the tournament, Moore said, “It was a great tournament. We brought two girls down with us, Abby Hogan and Hanna James with us as well, and they’re both really improving.”

The SHHS golf teams will be at the Mallard Creek golf course April 15 with the time to be determined.

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Photo by Kristine Banker  
Back Row L-R: Coach Dan Tow, Coach Amos Burger, Taiden Burger, Ethan Delibertis, Gavin Gra-beel, Jon Holly, Head Coach Evan Teter, Coach Zach Luttmner. Front Row L-R: Cohen Gutierrez, Eddie Taylor, Jason Funk, Robbie Strome, Kayden Gutierrez, Luke Rosa, Kyle Zajic, Kelso Ellis.

Photo by Kristine Banker  
Back Row L-R: Caiden Matthews, Forest Ashby, Hunter Dalley, Coach Cliff Dominy, Head Coach Mike Carpenter, Coach Brett Blachly, Lynkin Royer, Beau Snyder, Jett Snyder. Front Row L-R: Kaidence Greer, Bridger Royer, Gabe Dow, Jake Mengore, Tregon Francis, Brian Hiner, Manuel Rivera, Braden Paul, Cole Ogbin.

## Solid Group Looks to Out-Perform Last Season

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

Off to a rapid start, the Sweet Home Baseball team is hoping to improve upon the previous season (1-20). The team currently consists of 12 guys: seven seniors, one junior, three sophomores and one freshman. With a new head coach at the helm, Evan Teter has many drawn-out goals ready for the team to take on.

“Last season was obviously rough looking at our record, but we had a solid group of athletes,” Teter said, “We struggled to perform in the big moments, but when we were on our game we could hang with just about anybody.”

Going into this year, the

team lost eight seniors, but they luckily have three returning players who have been everyday starters at the varsity level. Those players include Jon Holly, Kelso Ellis and Kayden Gutierrez.

Other standout athletes who will have a big role this season include sophomore Cohen Gutierrez, freshman Kyle Zajic, sophomore Eddie Taylor, and senior Ethan Delibertis.

“Our team has a goal to have a state play in-game appearance and have listed many different ways we can make that happen,” Teter said. “This group lacks experience, but makes up for it with their positive mentality and grit. I’m very proud of their performance in the sea-

son so far and they are learning a lot every time they step on the field.”

Thus far, the team has played against Molalla 3-7, March 13, Madras 8-12, March 15, and Marshfield 1-6, March 16. Although these games struggle to reflect positively, in terms of score, Teter is still more than optimistic about the season.

Speaking about his team, he said, “They’re good guys to be around, and they deserve an opportunity to be successful. That’s what I want to do with this program and I’m going to do everything I can to help them with that.”

The Huskies will be playing away on March 21 at Junction City.



# New Head Coach Evan Teter Shapes Bright Future for SHHS Baseball

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The new addition to the Sweet Home Baseball team, head coach Evan Teter, isn't all that new.

Residing in Sweet Home until he was five, Teter spent most of his childhood years in Florence, Oregon.

Teter spent his early years playing the very sport he's now coaching. Playing all the way through little league, Teter also played for the varsity team all four years at Siuslaw High School. Junior year however, Teter faced a knee injury, which prevented him from playing. This didn't stop him, as he used this year to gain coaching experience as a varsity assistant coach.

"I had a roster spot at George Fox University to play college ball. [I] had a second knee injury right at the end of my senior year, and never recovered in time. But coaching has always been my dream," Teter said, "This spot that I'm at now, that was the goal."

"I am a Christian. That's a big part of my life. When I was looking for jobs in college, I was planning on sticking around Newberg. But I saw an opening here for some P.E jobs. I ended up attending a job fair that Sweet Home was at, and they hired me on the spot," Teter said. He mentioned that at first he didn't accept the job. For him, he spent a lot of time in prayer stating, "If this is where I'm supposed to be, that the Lord leads me here. I came here, and have never felt this much peace over a decision."

The very day Teter got the job, he emailed former head



The new varsity head coach Evan Teter.

Photo by Sky Chappell

coach John Best stating, "I'm coming, anything you need from me, I'm there." Teter spent last season in a more than familiar spot, being the varsity assistant coach, before being fully hired in November to take the head coach position.

"I think having experience in the program last year, I saw some things that worked, I saw some things that didn't work. How I do things this year could be adjusted next year if it doesn't work, but I love these guys," Teter said. "The big thing is that this is their thing. We're here to help them, but this is their team and that's something

we've talked about." With a rich program history, Teter understands that coming off of a one-win season is not living up to what the program once was, but he stated, "Success this year

is going to look different than it has in the past. After this year, our goal is to be on that trajectory to get back to what Sweet Home is used to."

Teter touched on last year's season (1-20) stating, "When

we set goals, I don't think we were the most realistic with them. So when we didn't meet them, we got frustrated. I think realistically, for this team, we can be successful now." Although the team is "rebuilding" losing a head coach, and eight seniors, Teter is more than optimistic about the season.

Along with bringing stability, developing routines, and developing traditions that can be carried on for a while, Teter said, "I'm a younger guy, so this is something I can see myself doing for a long period of time." Athletic director Dan Tow praised Teter for being a "young guy with a lot of energy that loves to be involved."

Teter commented on another goal of his, stating, "A really big focus for me is going to be helping develop the youth programs. I recognize that is a huge role in our success up here. All our varsity guys are going to be at the JBO tryouts."

Along with coaches attending the tryouts as well, Teter is hoping this allows connections between the athletes and coaches to be built early, so that the incoming athletes already have relationships to help build trust off of.

## HUSKIES SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

### BASEBALL VARSITY

3/21	4:30 PM	@ JUNCTION CITY
3/27	9:00 AM	@ ASTORIA
3/28	4:30 PM	@ SEASIDE
4/2	4:30 PM	VS. COTTAGE GROVE
4/4	4:30 PM	VS. MOLALLA
4/8	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH
4/10	4:30 PM	VS. PHILOMATH
4/11	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH
4/15	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
4/17	5:00 PM	@ NORTH MARION
4/18	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
4/22	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
4/24	4:30 PM	VS. STAYTON
4/25	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
4/29	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
5/1	4:30 PM	VS. CASCADE
5/2	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
5/6	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
5/8	4:30 PM	@ NEWPORT
5/9	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT

### BOYS GOLF

4/15	TBD	@MARSHFIELD
4/22	10:00 AM	@SWEET HOME
4/29	12:00 PM	@MARSHFIELD
5/6	1:30 PM	@MARSHFIELD

### GIRLS GOLF

4/8	11:00 AM	@BLANCHET CATHOLIC
4/15	TBD	@SWEET HOME
4/29	TBD	@STAYTON
4/29	12:00 PM	@MARSHFIELD
5/6	TBD	@TAFT
5/7	TBD	@TAFT

### TRACK & FIELD

4/6	10:00 AM	@SANDY
4/20	11:30 AM	@SWEET HOME

### BASEBALL - JV

3/21	4:00 PM	VS. JUNCTION CITY
3/22	4:30 PM	VS. COTTAGE GROVE
4/2	4:30 PM	VS. COTTAGE GROVE
4/4	4:30 PM	VS. MOLALLA
4/8	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH
4/10	4:30 PM	VS. PHILOMATH
4/11	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH
4/15	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
4/17	5:00 PM	@ NORTH MARION
4/18	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
4/22	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
4/24	4:30 PM	VS. STAYTON
4/25	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
4/29	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
5/1	4:30 PM	VS. CASCADE
5/2	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
5/6	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
5/8	4:30 PM	@ NEWPORT
5/9	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT

### SOFTBALL - JV

3/21	5:15 PM	VS. JUNCTION CITY
4/2	4:30 PM	@ COTTAGE GROVE
4/8	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
4/10	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
4/11	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
4/15	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
4/17	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH
4/18	4:30 PM	VS. CASCADE
4/22	4:30 PM	VS. STAYTON
4/24	4:30 PM	@ NEWPORT
4/25	4:30 PM	@ NORTH MARION
4/29	4:30 PM	VS. PHILOMATH
5/1	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
5/2	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
5/6	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
5/8	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
5/9	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH

### BASEBALL - JV2

5/6	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
5/8	4:30 PM	@ NEWPORT
5/9	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT

### SOFTBALL - VARSITY

3/21	3:30 PM	VS. JUNCTION CITY
3/25	11:30 AM	@ JUNCTION CITY
3/25	4:30 PM	@ TOLEDO
3/26	9:00 AM	VS. TAFT
3/26	11:30 AM	@ ST. HELENS
4/2	4:30 PM	@ COTTAGE GROVE
4/4	4:30 PM	VS. CENTRAL LINN
4/8	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
4/10	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
4/11	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
4/15	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
4/17	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH
4/18	4:30 PM	VS. CASCADE
4/22	4:30 PM	VS. STAYTON
4/24	4:30 PM	@ NEWPORT
4/25	4:30 PM	@ NORTH MARION
4/29	4:30 PM	VS. PHILOMATH
5/1	4:30 PM	@ CASCADE
5/2	4:30 PM	@ STAYTON
5/6	4:30 PM	VS. NEWPORT
5/8	4:30 PM	VS. NORTH MARION
5/9	4:30 PM	@ PHILOMATH

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# ADU Fees, Failing Infrastructure Top of Discussion at City Council

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The City Council held a robust discussion regarding system development fees for accessory dwelling units during its March 12 meeting.

The topic revealed why there is a need for what some may consider over-priced fees, but also brought out questions that needed to be considered when it comes to homelessness, affordability, and the city's faltering wastewater treatment plant.

Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen brought the discussion to the table by recalling how a resident approached the council last month about the possibility of waiving system development charges (SDC) on accessory dwelling units (ADU). The resident reasoned that since water and wastewater lines were already installed on the property, no more lines would need to be placed. Larsen said, however, that city code requires every residential unit (except apartments) have its own utility service, meaning any ADU must have its own water meter, and water and wastewater connections to the city's main lines.

Developers pay SDC fees when constructing new development, including added units on a homeowner's property. The fees are based on the type of housing unit (single family home, townhouse, apartment, etc.) and not only allows the developer to connect to the city's systems, but it also helps pay for the increased demand on the infrastructure systems of water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation and parks.

While ADUs can be integrated into an existing home (an addition to the home or basement apartment), they can also be built separately from the house, but the SDC charges fall under the single family home category, which is a \$15,000 fee.

In a report to the council, Larsen noted that while smaller homes (in this case, ADUs) theoretically have a smaller impact on the city's systems, they do still have an impact. If the city wanted to promote the construction of more ADUs in the city given the state of the economy and need for more housing, then it makes sense to exempt or discount the fees on ADUs, he said. Larsen went on to point out that when the state required cities to allow duplexes in residential zones, the city saw an "explosion" of development for duplexes, which means an exemption or deep discount on ADU fees might promote a similar increase on those types of developments.

Councilor Greg Mahler stated he was concerned that changing the fee structure to accommodate more ADUs might set a precedent that would "come back and bite us in the end."

Councilor Lisa Gourley said she believes the council should revisit the matter.

"It seems to be an undue burden on being able to put a mother-in-law's cottage or a canning kitchen off the house," she said.

Councilor Angelita Sanchez expressed her stance on the matter by bringing up hurdles that high fees might create.

"I've always been opposed to outrageous SDCs," Sanchez said. "I think they're a barrier

to job creation and home ownership."

She also said that, since the city has declared a state of emergency for homelessness, then the city should reduce barriers that would be preventing people from obtaining housing.

Mayor Susan Coleman pointed out that if the SDC rates were to be changed to benefit ADUs, then the burden to cover increased infrastructure costs would fall on city taxpayers.

"Especially regarding our wastewater facility, our water distribution plant, those things that need to be covered," Coleman said. "The purpose of SDCs is to cover the expenses of all of those things that are impacted by new additions and new homes."

City Manager Kelcey Young rebutted with a clarification that SDCs for housing developments for low income or homeless residents are typically "wiped." Larsen agreed the city has an ordinance that allows an exemption for low income housing.

"One of the tasks of city government and the city council is to make sure that we have infrastructure that's working," Coleman said. "I'm not against the possibility of discussing if we need to revisit SDCs, but we just need to keep in mind that because we didn't have SDCs established in the past – or very reasonable ones – a lot of our infrastructure is in bad disrepair, and that is why we increased them."

She further noted that when people add buildings to the community, they are adding "weight" and usage on the city's infrastructure.

Sanchez responded that if the city has a lack of affordable housing, then the city needs to make it affordable to build affordable housing. If the costs are too high to build, then people won't purchase the permits to build and, thus, those fees to support infrastructure won't be there, she said.

"For the ADUs, I would at least like to have an exemption for a temporary amount of time or until we get out

of the homelessness state of emergency and see what else we can do about the other things," Sanchez said. "The ADUs are critical to making sure that people can have somewhere with a roof over their head on their own family's property."

Discussion continued among the councilors and staff as they honed in a little more on the difference between dwellings that would be used as non-rentals and property owners who would add more units to use as rentals.

Gourley said she'd be interested in further looking into the possibility of adjusting SDC fees for ADUs if they were more specifically applied to owner-use units.

"What can we do to help people out, because we have an aging population and we really do need to make this affordable," Gourley said.

A consensus was reached for staff to return to a future city council meeting with different options on discounts to SDC fees for ADUs that are specific to non-rental dwellings.

## Approval of Goals

Following a goal setting workshop between city council and staff on Feb. 27, City Manager Kelcey Young presented at the city council meeting the outcome of said workshop and asked for approval of a resolution stating the goals for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Young reported that infrastructure was among the most important requests and goals at the workshop. Among those projects were: an emergency generator for the water treatment plant (through grants), funding for a water main replacement on 8th Avenue (through grants), an investigation with ODOT into traffic concerns on Pleasant Valley Road for the possibility of a light (presumably at Highway 20), construction of City Hall Park (through a donor), construction of emergency family housing and a park at Osage Street and 42nd Avenue, improvements at Sankey Park (through grants), and improvements of Weddle

Bridge.

Other identified goals include: updates on council rules, updates on the emergency management plan, looking into downtown vacancy reduction and design standards, acquisition of land, increasing grant applications and acquisitions, a city marketing plan and construction of a new library.

"We are hoping to be able to identify and purchase a property to eventually start the new library construction," she said.

Regarding city marketing, Young said staff and council expressed interest in being able to start sharing within and outside the community "what a beautiful place this is."

The council unanimously approved the resolution.

In other business:

- The council heard a presentation from Sean Tate, a lobbyist representing the newly-formed Advocating for Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC), a membership-based coalition of rural municipalities throughout the state that will work together to effect change in the state's decisions. Tate invited the City of Sweet Home to join SMAC.

While staff and council agreed rural cities need more of a voice in political movements, the \$6,000 annual membership fee presented a stumbling block for some. The council ultimately decided to give SMAC time to prove itself before revisiting the idea to join.

- The council denied an easement request from Alyrica Networks, Inc., which wanted to install equipment in a 20' x 20' area of the site where the old City Hall sits. Alyrica representatives said the location provides the best line of site for connectivity and signal strength, but Councilor Lisa Gourley expressed concern about the future of the building, should it ever be redeveloped.

- Mayor Susan Coleman asked Police Chief Jason Ogden why his report indicated total juveniles in custody for February rose by 76%. He told her he didn't know exactly why that was, but could only determine it may be related to the fact that a student resource officer position at the schools has been reinstated, providing more contact with the city's juveniles.

- City Attorney Robert Snyder announced his retirement will be on May 11 after serving the city for 43 years.

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# AMES

From page 1

make sure that you have all your resources, too.”

She offered some ideas – such as Legal Aid, FAC, the Sweet Home Police Department, Habitat for Humanity, and home remodeling programs – that might be able to help him with his process.

Young told Ames that, according to City Attorney Robert Snyder, nothing was found in the videos showing illegal activity.

“What’s being looked at is more of a personnel issue than anything,” she said.

Ames responded, “Well (Snyder) is a conflict of interest.”

## Background

The City Council during its Feb. 13 meeting agreed to place liens on three properties that were abated by the city, and tabled their decision to do so for Ames’ property while they looked into allegations of illegal abatement.

The properties the city placed liens on were: 4143 Osage St., owner deceased, squatters on property, run-down “dangerous” building overgrown with vegetation and junk, cleaned at a total cost of \$8,320; 1435 22nd Ave., private parties attempted cleanup but conditions were reported to have worsened, violations included unlawfully occupied RV, abandoned vehicles, nuisance animals, burning trash and trash stored outside, abatement of the RV total cost of \$5,200; and 1333 13th Ave., Adult Protective Services alerted the city of an elderly resident residing in a “dangerous” building who needed a higher level of care and could not clean her property of noxious vegetation and open storage, she was relocated to a care facility, abatement total cost was \$39,812.60, plus an additional lien already on the property for \$69,770.

City codes outline what is considered nuisances on property that owners are responsible for. If left unmaintained, owners will face fines and/or forced abatement of the nuisance. Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen said that city and state codes provide a process for them to go through to clean property. Initially, multiple notices of code violations are handed out and the property owners are “typically given a period of time to correct that. If they don’t correct it, there’s a couple different ways the City can go about it.”

Normally, he said, the owners are issued citations



Photo by Sarah Brown

At left, City Manager Kelcey Young and Communications Manager Adam Leisinger sit with Calvin Ames, at right, to discuss updates on Ames’ efforts to fix his house.

and fines until the problem is corrected. This often involves a process through the municipal court where a judge may offer to waive the fines if the problem is corrected.

“That is limited because it depends on the property owner to respond,” Larsen said.

Eventually those fines may lead to a lien on the property, he said. The other option is abatement, which means after violation notices and the passing of time without correction of the problem, the City goes in and does the clean up themselves. Often it involves hauling off large amounts of junk or boarding up a structure.

“The problem with that is the City has to have the money to do it in the first place,” Larsen said.

The City hires a private company to clean up the property, then the City invoices the property owner for the work done, plus an administrative fee. Oftentimes those invoices go unpaid, so the City must recoup its costs by placing a lien on the property. With a lien in place, the City can ensure that it is either repaid when the property is later sold or pursue repayment through the foreclosure process. Owners can also pay off the fee before repayment

through a sale or foreclosure is enforced.

## Calvin Ames

Property owners were given opportunity to address the council at the Feb. 13 meeting, during which time Ames and others objected to the manner in which Dawson managed the abatement process.

Ames was residing at his parents’ home at 1188 55th Ave. where Eldred and Eugenia Ames were listed as owners but are now deceased. He said he was out of town when Dawson made attempts to locate and contact the rightful property owner to address the code violations, which included a “dangerous” building, burning and buried trash, sewage leakage, junked vehicles, trash stored outside, unlawfully occupied RVs and more.

Heather Kelly, who told City Council she had been in a long-term relationship with Ames and living on the property for years, had multiple interactions with Dawson as he attempted to make contact with the rightful owner. She and Ames both reported that not only did Dawson violate code enforcement timelines and assistance, but he also interacted aggressively, damaged personal property and made derogatory remarks.

Larsen said the allegations contradict what other sources have told him, but he would review Dawson’s body camera footage to investigate the claims. He also reported the nuisances on the property have been “an issue for years” and the officer has been working on the problem for seven months.

“We put out notices for abatement after we make an attempt to work with property owners and work with occupants to clean up a property,” Larsen said. “They have plenty of notice that there is a violation there.”

It was reported a will leaving the house to Calvin Ames was filed with the court some time ago, but the probate process was never completed. Furthermore, property taxes had not been paid for the past four years. The house has been condemned until problems – such as inadequate sanitary facilities, missing or broken doors and windows, no adequate heating, a hole in the roof, an illegal attic bedroom, and no water service – are brought up to code. Abatement costs for the Ames property totaled \$38,223.60.

Larsen returned to City Council on Feb. 27 to report he reviewed all documents and five hours worth of video footage regarding alle-

gations against Dawson. He reported he was not able to find any evidence of alleged egregious remarks, nor had Kelly or Ames provided any of their own video footage to show as much. Furthermore, he had evidence of “numerous” verbal and written warnings and condemnation notices that were mailed, handed out, verbalized and posted on the property dating as far back as May 2023.

The Council agreed to table the issue once again in order for council members to have time to review video footage themselves. Though the issue was placed on the agenda for March 12, it was postponed for discussion at a later date.

Young indicated video from Kelly and or Ames has since been obtained by the city, but staff could not see anything illegal happening; she asked Ames to provide timestamps so staff know what the pair are specifically referring to that they believe is illegal action. Young told Ames on March 13 that the issue is expected to be addressed at a later meeting, possibly the end of April at the earliest.

“I need some time to just thoroughly look at everything,” she said. “We just want to be very, very, very thorough.”

Young told The New Era some of the video footage she’s seen so far reveal that residents on abated properties tend to be the ones who are not so nice.

“I’ve watched Blake get sworn at and yelled at,” she said. “He gets threatened and all sorts of things. May he be a little bit brusque? – Yeah; that’s quite likely. But we don’t have any evidence of him doing anything that would be considered illegal or against what he’s supposed to be doing.”

Yet it is her intention that, since there are concerns, the city will “step back” and review the abatement process thoroughly.

“We’re here to serve the community and we want to make sure we’re doing that in the absolute best way we can.”

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## DRIVE UP PHARMACY



# EDITORIAL

# A Deep Dive Into the New Price Change

By Chris Chapman  
Of The New Era

In the last editorial, I glossed over some of the hurdles on the new website. It is new, and we will continue to work on it and make improvements as we go. However, I also wrote about the new subscription prices, and while it made sense to me to “skip the rock on the surface,” I realize now that I should plunge deeper into the topic. From the start, I have promised transparency; it is what I expect from others, so I should, in return, do the same.

What I realized since the last publication is that while most of you have been long-time subscribers to newspapers and probably have a good understanding of how newspapers operate, it may not be a deep enough understanding to see the big picture in its entirety. I’ve pretty much worked in this industry since I was in high school, so for me, it’s as common as breathing, and so I forget that others don’t necessarily have the “insider” knowledge that those within the industry do. This is my attempt to shine some light on how newspapers function from a financial perspective so that you can have an understanding as to why we make the choices we make, or rather why I have made the choices I have in regard to the new pricing.

Right off the bat, there has to be a general understanding of how newspapers generate revenue. The New Era and Lebanon Local do this in a way that many other newspapers have done for years.

We sell subscriptions to the service of news collection and we present it via a printed edition that arrives at your door once a week. Now, obviously, we add to that with online versions and in-store versions of the same thing, but the general basis for the newspaper is simply a news service that gets delivered to your door.

Currently, as of this editorial, fulfilling that service costs us \$4.96 per paper per week. That’s not a full run of newspapers; that’s not adding in profit or anything like that. Simply put, the paper you are likely holding in your hands right now costs us \$4.96 to put it there. Prior to the price change, we sold annual subscriptions, which is the least expensive way to get the newspaper for \$43 a year. That means if you are an annual subscriber, you pay \$.83 per newspaper. Eighty-three cents a week means we, as a newspaper, pay \$4.13 to deliver you a news service. Now, this isn’t a guilt trip or anything like that. This is how the industry has worked.

So, if we just look at the business side of things, not the ideology of the necessity of news, you can see that right off the bat, without other sources of revenue, this business model wouldn’t last a week. This is where advertising comes into play. We, as a company, can sell advertising in the publication to offset or absorb the additional costs. But the current problem for the industry lies here.

In the past, print advertising was the peak way to market

your business. If you wanted to get your business in front of potential customers, it was the most economical and easiest way to do it. Now insert digital advertising, which is substantially cheaper and can be, if done correctly, more effective than print. That leaves us as an industry trying to absorb that much-needed revenue with a more expensive and sometimes less valuable advertising model. But this isn’t breaking news. This has been an industry issue for decades. So, how do we solve this problem?

First, we have to make sure our expenses aren’t excessive or unnecessary. Newspapers have to run lean pretty much 100% of the time. Now, when I took over, that was already the case. The New Era has been running lean for as long as I can remember. But even after I took over, some technology changes made it even more so. So we, as of right now, are lean as lean gets. Two, you have to fight against the stigma that print advertising doesn’t work or is dead. This isn’t a Ricky Bobby type situation where if you aren’t first, you’re last. No, not in the slightest. Print advertising is still very much effective and even more so when paired with online advertising. This leads me to my third point, which is you have to create creative ways for businesses to do both. You have to live in the print and digital world and do both very well, which is why we have made big strides in that direction.

Now, I wrote all that so you know we are for sure doing everything we can to hit that

\$4.13 mark. In all actuality, we are trying to go above that. Going over into the land of profit would be super helpful for things like updating our cameras, painting the building, fixing the roof, etc. However, the issue with relying on a high ratio of advertising vs. subscribers is that as the economy shifts up and down, so does our ability to hit that mark. This last winter has been a brutal one for businesses locally. To be fair, it’s probably been brutal for everyone financially. So, the ups and downs are expected. But in order to maintain the newspaper in the future, it will require more stability within the structure. The days of having excess revenue from advertising to pad the bottom line for the down times are gone. Simply put, you can’t compete with lower-price alternatives while raising your prices due to inflation, cost of living, and production costs. It just isn’t viable. Now, we have done that as well to try to limit the cost to the subscriber, but we are at the peak of what our market will allow for. There is no more going higher for advertisers because they simply won’t pay for it.

So, in order to maintain stability within the newspaper and the longevity of the business, we have to bring back the ratio of subscriber vs advertiser revenue streams to a more evenly distributed figure. Hence, our current price adjustment. To put it in numbers, we went from subscribers paying 83 cents per paper to \$1.61. Is that a huge jump? Uh, yeah, for sure. But in reality, it prob-

ably should have been done a while ago, slowly over time, so as to not be so drastic. Even so, it’s a difference of three quarters and three pennies a week or 78 cents. I pay around \$7 for a cup of coffee with a tip, and while I understand that not everyone does that, the reality of the situation is that 78 cents isn’t really much these days, especially when you look at what you get for that money. We have a full staff of people who dedicate more than 320 man hours a week going to almost every meeting, game, event, accident, fire, and whatever else to bring you the news about what is going on in your town so you can stay connected in the 20 minutes a week it takes you to read the paper. This is done all while maintaining historical records, taking photos, and documenting the town you live in.

So, in conclusion, I agree that there is a significant jump in price. But I am also of the mindset that when something needs to be done, just rip the bandaid off and do it. That mentality may come back to bite me later, but so far, it has served me well in this life, so let’s just keep rolling with it. Will the prices go up in the future? Yes, likely, as that is the way our economy works. However, I don’t know the future, so maybe not. I can say that it’s likely to be far off in the distance and much less of a drastic change. Am I happy about the price change? I am not; I don’t like stretching the limits, but stability is required, and we have exhausted all other options at our disposal. The good news, however, is that the value you receive, I feel, has gone up and will continue to rise. More investigative-type stories, better print quality, easier to read, and add in all the digital aspects, and you are getting more for your money.

At the end of the day, the choice wasn’t made lightly, but I hope now you have a better understanding of the bigger picture. I will add in that “officially,” the price change isn’t happening until the end of March, so if you want to get another year in at the \$43 mark, just call us before April, and we will gladly get you squared away.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support. It is in no way possible without you. I am grateful, the staff is grateful and we look forward to many more years of service.



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# Linn County Extends Mental Health Outreach with New Van

By Alex Paul  
For The New Era

Linn County has provided mental health crisis assistance to rural areas for a long time. But starting in March, the county's Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT) will be able to provide in-person services virtually anywhere in the county – from residential areas, to business parking lots to community parks – thanks to a new E Transit van that has been “upfitted” into a mobile crisis clinic.

Linn County Crisis Supervisor Manager Nova Sweet said the county ordered the Ford van more than 18 months ago through a fleet program. It recently underwent transformation inside and out, with a colorful graphics wrap and an interior that features a generous amount of storage, seating, lights, a computer holder, swiveling front seats, a bench seat and an on-board generator that will allow mental health staff to provide services in places where no electrical outlets are available.

Public Health Director Todd Noble said the project is in response to the passage

of HB 2757, which requires counties to provide mobile crisis response. Funding came through the Oregon Health Authority.

“We have traditionally been 24/7, but we primarily only responded directly to local hospitals to do crisis screenings. Now we can meet people where they are at in the community and will respond to crisis situations anywhere in the community,” Noble said. “We are working towards a firehouse model similar to EMS.”

Sweet explained that, currently, county staff respond to crisis calls in passenger vehicles. The new van provides them with an actual work space that will hold a wide variety of items that may be needed in a crisis intervention situation.

Sweet said that although Linn County will continue to work closely with EMTs and law enforcement, the van will provide services independently of those agencies. The mobile crisis response model requires that two county staff are present when working with people in need.

Sweet said the new unit may provide many ame-

nities for both clients and staff.

**Possible items to be stocked for clients include:** NARCAN, COVID tests; fuel vouchers/bus tickets; food/snacks/bottled water; hygiene (male/female); items for children such as fidgets and coping items; outreach bags; diapers/wipes/powder formula; sleeping bags/tents/tarps; backpacks; hand warmers; coats/socks/clothes; Gatorade as well as warm drinks such as hot coffee or hot chocolate; and blankets.

**Possible items helpful to staff may include:** Heavy duty extension cord/RV shore line adapter; water jug with spout; cooler; all needed documents/resources; AED/First-aid kit/CPR masks; lock boxes/med minders; pamphlet rack for resources; computer chargers (times two); phone charger; broom/trash can/bags/recycle bin; sanitizer and sanitizer wipes; rubber gloves; sharps container; pens/notepads; fire extinguisher; paper towels; resource phone book; charging cables/charge packs; rain jackets for crisis team; flashlight/extra batteries; jumper cables; and

an ice scraper. Sweet said she received an email from TriVan after the van was delivered.

It noted: “Your van was the envy of the Vancouver/Portland Area, as I made stops at Vancouver Public Schools and the Clark County Fleet Garage. Vancouver public schools is looking for an audiology testing van upfit and I stopped there so they could see our product

in person. They were big fans of the orange interior cabinetry and overall finish quality...”

There are also several high-powered lights on the exterior of the van and there is a canopy that lifts out above a large table when the back doors are opened.

The unit will start rolling out as soon as all staff members are checked out driving it.



Elena McGovern, 10, competed at Oregon's Compulsory State competition in Hillsboro on Sunday, March 17, helping her team capture fifth place. The former Sweet Home youth cheerleader is a Level 3 USAG gymnast at Peak Elite Gymnastics Academy in Corvallis, and attends the new Lake Town Academy.  
9.125 Beam, 9.075 Bars, 8.6 Floor, AA 35.725

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for unlawful entry into a motor vehicle.

1:20 a.m - Somer Renay Nicole Shaver-Berry, 43, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

3:18 a.m - Alexander Michael Maybee, 28, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for third degree theft.

12:39 p.m - CTC reported a powerline down. Arked into a wooden pole and set it, as well as the foliage around it, on fire. Sweet Home Fire Department and Oregon Department of Forestry put the fire out. 48200 block of Cascadia Dr., Cascadia.

1:34 p.m - Stray dog picked up and lodged at animal control.

2:04 p.m - Caller believed she found a human skull, but it was a Halloween plastic fake.

2:17 p.m - Daphne Collins, was cited for traffic violations.

3:58 p.m - Lily Keeney, was

cited for driving while suspended.

5:27 p.m - Caller reported a cougar sighting. Officer responded, searched the area, and found no signs of an animal. Report forwarded to ODF. 3580 block of Juniper St.

5:30 p.m - Linn County Sheriff's Office reported a structure fire at location. Officer responded to assist the fire department. 2700 block of Long St.

7:02 p.m - Cameron Michael Ihde, 22, of Lebanon, was cited for failure to perform duties of a driver, second degree criminal mischief and second degree criminal trespass.

9:30 p.m - Tyler Michael Cain, 24, was arrested and cited in lieu of custody for failure to carry or present a license, driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

10:44 p.m - Nicholas Scott Warren, 44, was arrested on a Lebanon Justice Court warrant for a probation violation on an original charge for false info.

**Mar. 16**

1:36 a.m - Linn County Sheriff's Office reported an overdose at a location.

2:34 p.m - Larry Dean Bergstrom, 59, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal

Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree theft.

2:36 p.m - Larry Burgstrom, 59, was cited and released on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant.

2:58 p.m - Deputies responded to an injury crash on Brush Creek Road.

5:48 p.m - Earl Joseph McCaslin, was arrested for a restraining order violation.

**Mar. 17**

1:38 a.m - Teja Leeanne Samson Ashe, was cited for driving uninsured.

2:17 a.m - Brandon Ryan Freeman, was arrested on a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for a probation violation.

9:41 p.m - Suzanne Marie Stroud, was arrested on a Linn County Justice Court warrant for a probation violation.

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(Mar 13 - Mar 20)

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLENE GALE MILLER, Deceased. Case No. 24PB01744 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Julie Spencer has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at: 1275 Main Street or P. O. Box 486, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published: March 13, 2024

Personal Representative Julie Spencer  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Robert Snyder  
Attorney at Law  
541-367-5191  
(Mar 13 - Mar 27)

In the Matter of the Intestate Estate of CRYSTA LYN KEEFER NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

Linn County Case No. 24PB01501

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of CRYSTA LYN KEEFER, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, of Ivers & Miller Law, 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED and first published: March 20, 2024.

Diana Bunde  
c/o Sarah Castleton  
Ivers & Miller Law  
PO Box 1033  
317 First Ave W., Suite 302  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 928-5875  
sarah@ivers.law  
(Mar20)

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Lebanon Rural Fire Protection District, Linn County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 will be held at the Lebanon Fire District Offices located at 1050 W. Oak Street, Lebanon, OR. The meeting will take place on the 9th day of April, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. The purpose is to receive the budget message. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained after April 2, 2024 at the Lebanon Fire District office between the

Public Notices

hours 9:00A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Listed above is the time and place of the Budget Committee meeting, which will be held to take public comment. Any person may appear at this meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. Information is also available on the Lebanon Fire District website. You may also join the meeting via Zoom. (Instructions below.)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87161865168?pwd=NENjdVNuVdWslEUpyclRiQjBHNjRUZz09  
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# School Enrollment Numbers See Slight Dip



**ESPY WINNERS** this month are Harlee Bellon, Jacey Brunson, Ava Desmond, Allison Denuhl, Sadie Engelhart, Olivia Farris, Gavin Gardner, Aili Hammond, Everleigh Higholt, Marci Holifield, Kellen Landis, Hannah Norman, Wesley Raynor and Kira Wortman.

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

School District board members at a March 11 board meeting heard enrollment numbers are starting to drop a little which, according to Supt. Terry Martin, is a nationwide trend.

Martin reviewed current enrollment numbers, noting the district is down a little bit, "which is kind of unusual for this time of year." It's common to see movement around winter or spring break, though. He noted numbers are down considerably across the state as well as the nation, and that is beginning to show itself in Sweet Home as the district's kindergarten numbers begin to dip.

A board member asked what's causing a drop in enrollment, to which Martin said it's for a variety of reasons. Some on the board and in the audience said it could be moves out of state, enrollment in non-public schooling systems, poor attendance and a decline in birth rates.

Discussion among the board revealed the district used to fine parents for absent kids, but now the district

offers incentives for attendance instead.

Meanwhile, the school district has initiated a program to help incoming students learn English as a second language.

Jennifer Ashcraft presented to the board an update on the English Language Learners (ELL) program for students whose first language is not English. The goal of the program, she said, is to help the students become proficient in English while also maintaining their first language and culture. She is serving six schools in the district which have students who speak primarily Filipino, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukrainian.

The high school has two English learners (ELs) and three who are now considered proficient but are being monitored. The junior high has four ELs and two monitored; Hawthorne has one monitored EL; Oak Heights has seven ELs and one monitored; the charter school has one EL student; Foster has two ELs; and Holley has no ELs this year.

The district plans to host

an EL family night for parents, students and teachers to help connect the families to important resources and provide opportunities for the families to connect.

In other business, the board:

- Heard a budget update;
- Approved the 2024-25 school calendar;
- Approved a service plan with the Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District, which offers specialized services to the district;
- Approved the adoption of curriculum for ELL;
- Approved vendors for resurfacing and filtration projects at the pool;
- Addressed an issue surrounding the resignation of Robbie Ellis, who taught math at the junior high school. A board member mentioned it was concerning to her that his resignation letter indicated he was leaving due to student behavior and work overload. While Martin said he could not legally speak publicly about individuals, he did say the district is looking into the matter.

## DEAR EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Jamie McLeod-Skinner is a problem solver.

I'm encouraged that Jamie McLeod-Skinner is once again running for Congress in District 5 to defeat Lori Chavez-Deremer. Lori says she is "moderate" even though she always votes the way our current speaker, the extreme Mike Johnson wants her to. Lori is a climate denier who thinks we have hundreds of years to address this supposed "non-crisis".

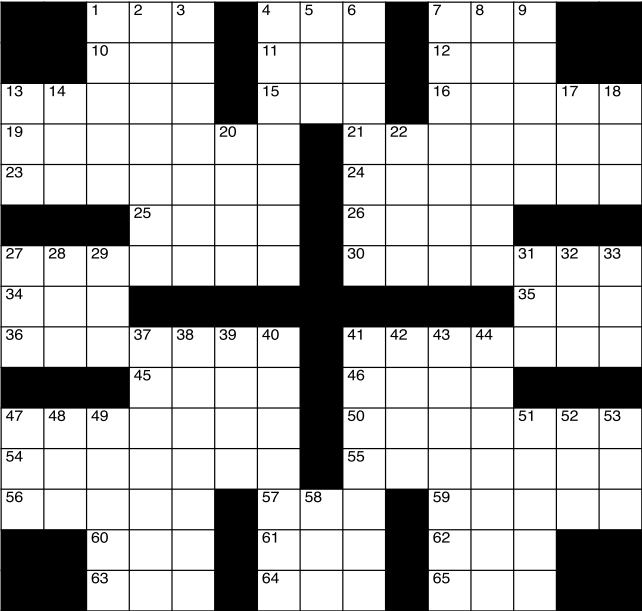
She also opposes any gov't. funded healthcare such as VA, Medicare, Medicaid and Obamacare! She's constantly voting against the interests of Oregon's 5th Congressional District.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, on the other hand, is a problem solver best suited to replace Lori. Jamie is well-versed in Natural Resource Law and Indian Law. Jamie is currently on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and served in the Jefferson County Education Services Dis-

trict. To me, this illustrates that she is an independent thinker, someone who wants to solve an issue on behalf of people that are looking for such a steward. I've gotten to know Jamie over the years and trust her to put her convictions for public service into this very consequential Congressional seat. She reminds me of the public service that Peter Defazio delivered for Oregon when he was in Congress.

-Wendy Nilsen

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast

4. For each

7. Airborne (abbr.)

10. Photographs

11. They \_\_\_\_

12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)

13. Monetary unit

15. Cool!

16. A son of Jacob

19. Cut off

21. Devour

23. Agent of one's downfall

24. Best

25. Network of nerves

26. Partner to "oohs"

27. Origins

30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias

35. Swiss river

36. Greek mythological figure

41. Type of whiskey

45. Lay to rest

46. "Rule, Britannia" composer

47. Select jury

50. Feeling

54. Action regarded as morally wrong

55. Makes angry

56. Act incorrectly

57. Defensive nuclear weapon

59. Class of escort aircraft carrier

60. To what degree

61. Buzzing insect

62. The human foot

63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd

64. A place to stay

65. Sun up in New York

### CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary muscular contraction

2. Earnest

3. Cuts out surgically

4. Can't move

5. Baseball stat

6. British soldier

7. Traditional medicine plants

8. Political party controlled by managers

9. Hebrew prophet

13. Supporter

14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

17. Liberty Mutual mascot

18. Georgia rockers

20. A place where building is done

22. Large, deep-bodied fish

27. Clothing retailer

28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly

31. Founder of Babism

32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia

33. Sea eagle

37. Leave behind

38. Time of day

39. Colorless crystalline compound

40. They lay out course requirements

41. A diamond has three

42. Algerian coastal city

43. Remove cover

44. Rechristened

47. Distinctive practice

48. Defunct phone company

49. Turkish officer of high rank

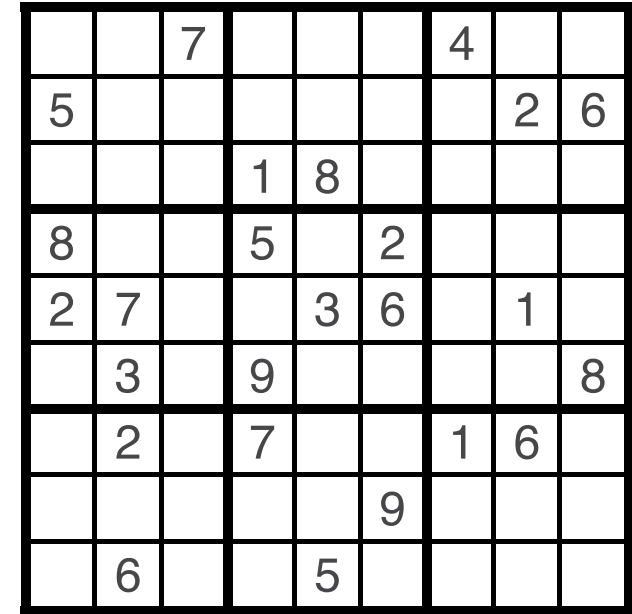
51. Eliminate from the body

52. Witness

53. Soviet Socialist Republic

58. Founding Father Franklin

## SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate





Photo by Sky Chappell  
Police officers Trevor Sundquist (left) and Allen Cripe (right) coordinate with firefighters to manage the scene of a structural fire in Sweet Home.

# Firefighters Battle Wildfire and Structure Fire in a Day of Multiple Emergencies

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home faced a series of emergencies Friday, starting with a wildfire sparked by a downed power line in the rural area of Cascadia, followed by a structure fire that threatened a residence in the city.

The first incident occurred around 12:34 p.m., approximately 13 miles east of Sweet Home in Cascadia, when the Sweet Home Fire District was dispatched to address a fallen wire. Upon arrival, firefighters encountered flames 2-3 feet high along Highway 20, spreading quickly into adjacent trees and underbrush—the presence of a live power line complicated fire-fighting efforts. However, with the prompt assistance of Pacific Power, the blaze was contained to a 300-foot by 25-foot area. Support at the scene included personnel from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State Police, and Linn County Sheriff's Office.

"This is a startling reminder of how fast fuels can dry out with just a few days of sunshine," Battalion Chief Randy Whitfield said. "We are far ahead of the normal time of year we see incidents such as this."

Later the same day, at 5:26 p.m., firefighters were called to a fire in the 2700 block of Long Street, initially reported as a shed fire that was

spreading to a nearby tree and subsequently to a house. The Battalion Chief arrived within minutes to find the shed fully engulfed, with the fire damaging a tree and the house's siding and spreading to the eaves. Firefighters managed to prevent the fire from entering the home, though the shed and a portion of a carport were destroyed. Crews remained on scene for about 90 minutes to ensure the fire had not spread further into the house or attic. The Sweet Home Fire District responded with three chief officers, two engines,

and a medic unit, with assistance from the Sweet Home Police Department. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

In addition to these fires, Sweet Home medics handled numerous medical calls throughout the day, at times managing four simultaneous incidents. The Lebanon Fire District provided crucial support by assisting with several calls that required patient transport to local hospitals. The Sweet Home Fire District thanked the Lebanon Fire District for their assistance during this hectic day.



Photo provided by SHFAD  
Emergency personnel and fire trucks line the roadside after containing a wildfire sparked by a downed power line in the rural area of Cascadia on Friday.

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